

Since 2002, when I announced our goal to help 5.5 million minorities become homeowners by the end of this decade, the rate of minority homeownership has climbed above 50 percent, and more than 2.5 million minority families have become new homeowners. My Administration will continue to provide counseling and assistance for new homebuyers and expand homeownership opportunities for all Americans.

During National Homeownership Month and throughout the year, we applaud the men and women who work to achieve the dream of homeownership, and we are grateful for those who provide counseling, lending, real estate, construction, and other services to these individuals. The hard work, financial discipline, and personal responsibility of our country's homeowners help transform neighborhoods throughout our Nation and reflect the best qualities of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 2006 as National Homeownership Month. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in building a more hopeful society and recognizing the importance of expanding the ownership of homes across our great Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 8025 of May 25, 2006

Black Music Month, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

African-American musicians have added to the rich culture of our country and of countries around the world. During Black Music Month, we recognize the African-American artists who have enhanced our lives and created some of our Nation's most treasured art forms.

Throughout history, African-American artists have produced music with the power to change hearts and shape our national conscience. From gospel to blues, from jazz to rock and roll, the songs of America's black musicians have defined our times and enriched our culture. Performers such as Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie and vocalists such as Lizzie Miles and gospel singer Mahalia Jackson have made their mark as great American musicians, strengthening our Nation's diversity and lifting the human spirit.

In 2005, Americans witnessed the power of music to help bring our country together. Following the devastation of the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina, the musicians of that great region sought to preserve their unique musical style and culture and share it with the rest of the Nation. The soulful music of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast remains one of our national treasures, a symbol of creativity and hope.

Black Music Month recognizes some of the brightest lights of American creativity and honors the African-American men and women whose art entertains and inspires us. The incredible talents of black musicians continue to speak to every heart, reflecting the beauty and pride of our great Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2006 as Black Music Month. I encourage all Americans to learn more about the history of black music and to enjoy the great contributions of African-American musicians.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 8026 of June 1, 2006

National Child's Day, 2006

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

A hopeful society ensures that its children are provided with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to succeed. On National Child's Day, we reaffirm our commitment to America's children and recognize the power that each of us has to make a difference in a young person's life.

The character of a child is formed in the earliest years through the love and guidance of family members and other caring individuals. A parent, teacher, or mentor can help improve a child's academic achievement, encourage right choices, and help them to understand the importance of serving a cause greater than self.

Through USA Freedom Corps, my Administration is providing opportunities for volunteers to work with children in schools, after-school programs, and through community groups and organizations. By volunteering, these adults set an example of service and good citizenship for our young people and provide youth with the stability and encouragement they need to achieve their dreams. My Administration has also launched the *Community Guide to Helping America's Youth* at helpingamericasyouth.gov. This web-based tool is part of the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, and assists communities in identifying ways to lend a hand to children in need. In addition, my Administration is working through No Child Left Behind and the American Competitiveness Initiative to ensure every child has a quality education and the opportunity to succeed. By investing in the lives of our young people, we can help develop their personal character, teach them to be responsible citizens, and enable them to realize their full potential.